

# Spectrum



Photos by Bonnie Heater

Pvts. Jeff Washington and Sandry Salinas whirl through the air on the swinger ride Saturday during Fort Gordon's Cinco de Mayo Latin Festival and Carnival on Barton Field. Both Soldiers are assigned to Company B. 447th Signal Battalion.

## Cinco de Mayo soars despite rain

### *Flea market vendors fold*

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*Correspondent*

By lunchtime Saturday, Jennifer Amerson had already made several trips from the Fort Gordon Service Club's spring flea market to her car to stash her finds in the trunk.

"I came out looking for baby items," said the mother of four month-old Autumn Amerson.

And she found lots of items despite the fact that the dreary morning stopped about half of the vendors from attending the event.

"I'm disappointed there were not a lot of vendors," she said.

More than 100 vendor spaces were sold prior to the event, said service club president Kathi Pope.

One group whose members did show up to sell was the Freedom Park Elementary School's Parent-Teacher Association.

"We came out to try to end the year with a bang," said Tomisha Childs, acting president. "We are trying to get a fundraiser

going. Our ultimate goal is to buy new playground equipment for the school."

Decisions on whether to move the flea market to the rain date have to be made by Friday night, but the weather wasn't a deterrent on May 4, said flea market co-chairwoman Debbie Windhorn.

"There was only a 30 percent chance of rain," she said.

The service club did benefit despite the no-shows because vendors spaces are paid upfront with no refunds.

While the rain may have deterred sellers, the buyers were unfazed, Windhorn said.

"At 7 a.m., there were already a half dozen cars," she said.

The flea market didn't start for another two hours.

While Saturday's crowds at the flea market and the Cinco De Mayo celebration were sluggish, that couldn't be said of Friday's attendance.

"Friday we had a good crowd at the carnival, and people were getting into the spirit of the event," said Steve Walpert, Fort Gordon's entertainment director.

The carnival with rides, a car show and Latin-inspired entertainment and food were other events held over the weekend at Barton Field.



(Above) Car show trophies sit waiting to be claimed after the judging. (Below) Frank Monaco and 21-month-old son Wade fly in the Red Barron ride at the Cinco de Mayo Latin Festival and Carnival.



(Above, left to right) Pfc. Matthew Snell and Pvt. Andrew Trnka, Company B 447th Signal Battalion, enjoy the Dizzy Dragon ride with their friends Pvts. Emily Henshaw and Kenneth Jones, who are seated behind them hidden from view, Thursday at the Fort Gordon Cinco de Mayo Latin Festival and Carnival. Thursday was Military Appreciation Day at the festival.



(Above) Morgan Benjamin, 4 coasts down the large slide with a little help from her sister Kaylie Hartman, 10 at the Cinco de Mayo Latin Festival and Carnival. They are the daughters of Sgt. Daniel Benjamin, Company A 63rd Signal Battalion and Daisha Benjamin. (Below, left to right) Nathaniel Medina, 7, and Ian Carlo Medina, 5 take a motorcycle spin. The boys are the sons of Jacqueline and Severo Medina.

